

ISLE OF MAN LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION - LEAGUE RULES 2023 - MIXED

LEAGUES

1.1 Each season there will be Men's, Women's, Mixed and Winter Leagues, all of which will be doubles events. These Leagues will be agreed in advance by the IOMLTA, and could be subject to change and / or cancellation. The number of teams in each league shall be at the discretion of the League Secretary. League competitions will be open to Clubs affiliated to the IOMLTA.

SEASONS

- 2.1 The Men's and Women's Leagues will commence in April and be completed by early July.
- 2.2 The Mixed League will commence in July and finish in September.
- 2.3 The Winter League will commence in October and finish in the following March.
- 2.4 The Leagues may be extended at the discretion of the League Secretary.

NOMINATIONS

- 3.1 Each team shall consist of four or six players as determined by the IOMLTA.
- 3.2 All members of a Club are eligible to play for that Club if they are paid up members prior to playing in any match and have an LTA number which must be notified to the League Secretary before playing any matches. The League Secretary may call for evidence from any Club of a player's eligibility in the event of a dispute raised by an opposing team.
- 3.3 Juniors under the age of twelve will only be allowed to play in an IOMLTA Senior League with the written consent of a parent or guardian, using the IOMLTA - U12 Declaration Form for Senior Leagues, which is available from the League Secretary. The League Secretary must receive completed and signed forms at least 48 hours before they play.
- 3.4 Any Club entering more than one team in the same league should nominate all members of all teams other than the Club's lowest team to the League Secretary before the first fixture and such nominated players are not eligible to play for a lower team. Nominations can be in writing or by email. In the absence of nominations, players who represent a team for its first match will be treated as having been nominated for that team.
- 3.5 It is expected that Clubs nominate players for teams in a fair way by only nominating players who are likely to play for the team for the majority of the league fixtures and, if entering more than 1 team, nominating players with due regard for standard of play indicated by the WTN-D number (or/and WTN-S number). Note 18.1 re eligibility.
- 3.6 If any nominated player does not play in at least one of the first two matches for the relevant team the nomination of that player shall be cancelled but the player shall continue to be eligible to play for that team or a higher team. Another player must be nominated for that team prior to the commencement of the second match.
- 3.7 Any player may 'play up' for a team above that player's nominated team or the team above the lowest team if not specifically nominated. Any player who has played in two such matches shall automatically be a nominated member of the lower of the teams 'played up' for and any previous nomination for that player shall be cancelled. Any matches already played for a team higher than that player's newly nominated team shall continue to count as 'play ups'.
- 3.8 If the nominated players for any team become less than is required for that team further players shall be nominated automatically from any players that have 'played up' in the following order of preference from the highest team played up for to the lowest team above the relevant team:
 - i) With regard to matches played for the designated First Pair of the team:
 - a) Number of times 'played up'.
 - b) Number of sets won .
 - c) Number of games won.
 - d) Chronological order of matches played.
 - ii) The same with regard to matches played for any lower pairs in order.If this does not produce the required nominations, the Club must make suitable nominations before the next fixture to be played by the team. Any previous nomination for a player nominated under this section shall be cancelled, and any matches already played for a team higher than that player's newly nominated team shall continue to count as 'play ups'.
- 3.9 Any sets involving a player who is not eligible in accordance with any of the above shall be forfeited by the offending team. NB This includes playing a player without an LTA number or failing to provide their number to the League Secretary before the match.

PLAYING FOR MORE THAN ONE CLUB

- 4.1 Any member of a Club who has played in a match for that Club is not eligible to play or be nominated for any other Club in the same league.

TEAMS

- 5.1 Clubs must inform the League Secretary of the number of teams they wish to enter and the home match nights by the appropriate date.
- 5.2 Promotion and relegation of teams will be determined by the League Secretary at the commencement of each league programme and may, at the discretion of the League Secretary, take into account requests in respect of any Team eligible for promotion not to be promoted. In the event that a new team is entered, it will be entered in the lowest division, unless otherwise determined by the League Secretary.

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FIXTURES

6.1 These will be arranged by the League Secretary.

Once fixtures have been agreed, they may be changed only in the following circumstances:

- a. Inclement weather.
 - b. Where two or more nominated players from either team are required for representative duty in connection with an island tennis team (whether Senior, Junior or Veterans) either as a player or in any other official capacity.
 - c. Non availability of courts.
 - d. ~~By mutual agreement of both team captains.~~ (Removed for 2023 season forwards)
 - e. At the discretion of the League Secretary, and only where there are exceptional circumstances.
- 6.2 Each team will complete the fixtures as listed. In the event that a club is unable to field a team, but gives notice of at least three hours to the opposing team captain, the match (and all sets/games) will be conceded to the opposing team without penalty to the team at fault. In the event however, that a team fails to turn up or provides less than three hours' notice to the opposing captain, the offending team will be penalised two points with the match points (and all sets and games) being awarded to the opposing team. In the event of a team being unable to field a full team, they should advise the opposing team captain where possible. Sets to be forfeited will be lowest pairing first and any other in ascending order.

COURTS AND START TIMES

- 7.1 Three (or two if appropriate) courts must be made available for play from the agreed start time which shall be no later than 7.00pm unless a later start is sanctioned by the League Secretary. Round 1 matches must be started within 10 minutes of the agreed start time, Round 2 matches must be started within 5 minutes of the conclusion of all round 1 matches, and (for Format C) Round 3 matches must be started within 5 minutes of the conclusion of all Round 2 matches. If any match is not started in accordance with these timings, the captain of the non-offending team may claim the appropriate sets.
- 7.2 If floodlights are available they must be used to complete matches should normal daylight not be acceptable.

MATCH SCHEDULE AND ORDER OF PLAY

- 8.1 The home team captain will nominate his/her team on the official score card before handing the card to the away team captain for completion.
- 8.2 Team captains should note that a Junior under the age of twelve who plays in the IOMLTA Senior Leagues may not partner another Junior under the age of sixteen.
- 8.3 The order of play will be determined by the format of the leagues. These are shown in Appendix 1. The IOMLTA Committee shall decide which format shall apply to each League and this may vary from season to season.
- 8.4 In League formats A to D the away team remains on the same court and the home team moves as per the order of play on the score sheet. In formats E and F and the alternative to F the away team chooses the court allocation.

SCORING

- 9.1 Two points will be awarded for a win and one point for a draw.
- 9.2 If teams have equal points at the completion of the fixtures, the percentage of sets won to sets played will decide the final team placing. In the event of teams still being drawn, the percentage of games won to games played will decide the final team placing.

SCORE CARD

10.1 The official score card is to be completed and signed by the team captains and returned to the League Secretary within 72 hours of completion of the match. It is the home team captain's responsibility to post or email the score card. Verbal advice of results is not acceptable. This rule applies also to matches legitimately postponed, although in this case an explanation of the reason can be sent either by email or in writing to the League Secretary. At the option of the League Secretary, non-compliance with this rule may lead to the match being forfeited by the home team.

UNCOMPLETED MATCHES

- 11.1 In the event that a match is not completed, then either the whole match shall be replayed or the match shall be abandoned. The criteria for deciding this are:
- a. A match can be discontinued for bad weather only if both team captains agree. If half or more of the required sets have been completed the match shall be abandoned and the score will stand; otherwise the match will be postponed and replayed at a later date.
 - b. A match can be discontinued if either team captain considers the courts to be unsafe to play on at the start of or during a match either because of the conditions of the court or because of inadequate light. If half or more of the required sets have been completed and with the agreement of both Captains, the match shall be abandoned and the score will stand; otherwise, the match will be postponed and replayed at a later date.
- 11.2 Should a team captain consider the postponement to be unreasonable the match will be discontinued and a decision referred to the League Secretary as to whether the match will be abandoned, postponed, or, in extreme situations where it appears a team is seeking to gain unfair advantage, deemed to have been completed with any remaining unfinished sets awarded appropriately.

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11.3 In the event that a fixture is postponed, it shall be rescheduled for 7 days after its scheduled date and time unless either team is already scheduled to play on that revised date or the match venue is unavailable: if so, it shall be rescheduled for a further 7 days thereafter and so on in like manner until a suitable date is so determined.

11.4 Notwithstanding the provisions of rule 11.3, the team captains can agree a different rescheduled date and time for the match to be replayed. Details of all such rearranged matches must be advised to the League Secretary before the rescheduled date determined by rule 11.3..

INJURY OR ILLNESS

12.1 If due to injury or illness a player is unable to continue after a round has started, uncompleted games of that player in the round being played shall be forfeited. Should the player not recover in time to play the next round all subsequent games due to be played by that player shall be forfeited.

CONDUCT

13.1 Complaints from clubs/teams concerning the conduct or behaviour of players in league matches must be made in writing to the League Secretary within seven days of the incident. Full details of the incident must be provided to the League Secretary who is obliged to pass these details to the alleged offending team or player so that they may have an opportunity to refute the allegations. The League Secretary is obliged to bring the matter before the governing body of the IOMLTA who will consider any allegations of misconduct in accordance with the LTA governing rules and revert to the League Secretary and player as appropriate.

DISPUTES

14.1 Full details of any disputes not settled to the satisfaction of both teams must be submitted in writing by the teams concerned to the League Secretary and a decision referred to the Competition Committee appointed by the governing body of the IOMLTA.

TENNIS BALLS

15.1 The home team is responsible for providing three new ITF/LTA approved tennis balls per court.

DRESS

16.1 All players must wear suitable tennis clothing and footwear.

LTA RULES

17.1 The rules of tennis and code of conduct as laid down by the LTA must be observed. In the event of any queries arising, not provided for in these rules, it shall be dealt with by the League Secretary who shall be the sole interpreter of the rules and whose decision will be final.

BTM RATING

18.1 Unless otherwise agreed by the League Secretary, no player of BTM Rating 6.2 or better (or WTN singles or doubles below 20) can be nominated or play for any team below the highest level team for a Club unless there are sufficient players of equal or better rating in that Club to fill all the places in those teams above the team nominated or played for.

GDPR

19.1 In line with the IOM LTA Privacy Policy, a copy of which is available from your Club Secretary, Captains are reminded that contact information in relation to the IOM LTA Senior Leagues, should only be held for purposes of the Senior Leagues, and should not be held for any longer than is reasonably necessary.

ADDITIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

20.1 Where a circumstance arises that is not specifically covered in any of the preceding rules the League Secretary shall decide and that decision shall be final subject to Rule 14.1 above

APPENDIX 1 - FORMATS OF LEAGUES

Format A: Three couples play two tie-break sets against two pairs of the opposing team as follows :-

Round 1: Home pair 1 plays 2 sets against opposing pair 1

Home pair 2 plays 2 sets against opposing pair 3

Home pair 3 plays 2 sets against opposing pair 2

Round 2: Home pair 1 plays 2 sets against opposing pair 2

Home pair 2 plays 2 sets against opposing pair 1

Home pair 3 plays 2 sets against opposing pair 3

Pairs must be ranked strictly in order of merit in each match. The total number of sets played will be 12.

Format B: Two couples play two tie-break sets against each pair of the opposing team as follows :-

Round 1: Home pair 1 plays 2 sets against opposing pair 1

Home pair 2 plays 2 sets against opposing pair 2

Round 2: Home pair 2 plays 2 sets against opposing pair 1

Home pair 1 plays 2 sets against opposing pair 2

The total number of sets played will be 8.

Format C: Three couples play one tie-break set against each pair of the opposing team as follows:-

Round 1: Home pair 1 plays 1 set against opposing pair 1

Home pair 2 plays 1 set against opposing pair 2

Home pair 3 plays 1 set against opposing pair 3

Round 2: Home pair 1 plays 1 set against opposing pair 2

Home pair 2 plays 1 set against opposing pair 3

Home pair 3 plays 1 set against opposing pair 1

Round 3: Home pair 1 plays 1 set against opposing pair 3

Home pair 2 plays 1 set against opposing pair 1

Home pair 3 plays 1 set against opposing pair 2

The total number of sets played will be 9.

Format D: Two couples (mixed in mixed leagues) play two tie-break sets against their opposite pair of the opposing team plus one set against the other pair as follows :-

Round 1: Home pair 1 plays 1 sets against opposing pair 2

Home pair 2 plays 1 sets against opposing pair 1

Round 2: Home pair 1 plays 2 set against opposing pair 1

Home pair 2 plays 2 set against opposing pair 2

Pairs must be ranked strictly in order of merit in each match. The total number of sets played will be 6.

Format E: Each team consists of 2 men and 2 women. All matches are of tie-break sets as follows:

Round 1: Home men's pair plays 2 sets against opposing men's pair

Home women's pair plays 2 sets against opposing women's pair

Round 2: Home mixed pair 1 play 2 sets against opposing mixed pair 1

Home mixed pair 2 play 2 sets against opposing mixed pair 2

Total number of sets played will be 8.

Format F: As Format E except Mixed pairs play only 1 set. Total number of sets played will be 6.

Alternative to Format F:

Round 1: Men pairs play 1 set of Men's Doubles

Women pairs play 1 set of Women's Doubles

Round 2: Mixed pairs play 1 set Mixed Doubles against corresponding opposing Mixed pair

Round 3: Mixed pairs play 1 set Mixed Doubles against the other opposing Mixed pair

Format G: Two couples play 3 tie-break sets against their opposite number.

Home pair A plays 3 tie-break sets against Away pair A

Home pair B plays 3 tie-break sets against Away pair B

Total number of sets played will be 6.